

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. today stated that "We in the Congress are turning the page on a dismal presidency and writing a new chapter for our country" as he voted on the emergency funding bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. "This legislation aims to address the mounting challenges that were created, ignored or intensified by the current Administration."

Jackson stated, "I voted today to break with the failed policies of the Bush Administration, to begin withdrawing our brave troops from the Iraqi quagmire and to start repairing the devastating damage of the last eight years. The legislation provides the change in priorities and direction that the American people desperately seek and deserve."

The Emergency Spending Supplemental legislation was considered in three separate amendments, each funding separate domestic or international programs and efforts. The first amendment -- opposed by Congressman Jackson -- provided \$162.5 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan through the summer of 2009. The amendment was the only one to fail.

Jackson said, "I object to staying on this perilous course, pouring billions more, for a longer time, down a deeper hole, in the middle of a civil war that's half-way around the world. I say: no more money for the same old plan by the very people who insist on an open-ended commitment to the worst foreign policy blunder in a generation. It's time to change course, NOW!"

"It's time to bring our brave men and women home," continued Jackson, who supported the second amendment that required a redeployment of our troops. "In doing so, this measure establishes a more responsible, sensible and sustainable course that will bring an end to the mission in Iraq, protects our vital national security interests and refocuses our efforts on fighting the real threats of terrorism around the world." The measure also required the Iraqi people to assume greater responsibility and invest in the reconstruction of their own country.

The third amendment funded a new "GI bill" for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans; extends unemployment benefits for those hit hardest by the economic downturn; and provides \$500 million more in aid for the mounting global food crisis.

Jackson said, "I'm proud that this bill meets our obligations to those who bravely serve in the military and addresses the urgent economic needs of those struggling here at home. It also reflects the deep compassion, values and generosity of the American people by providing humanitarian assistance to developing countries hit hardest by the international food crisis. That's the side of America that the world is waiting and hoping to see, once again," concluded Jackson.

In his seventh term, Congressman Jackson sits on the House Appropriations Committee, serving as the Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs as well as the fourth most senior Democrat on the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies. He also sits on the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.